

Missing Piece

The first impression, what is the story about and what potential wisdom is at the heart of the theme-

Create a claim

1. Three ways the author uses **juxtaposition** to create meaning that reveals the true depth of the theme in the story
2. Three images- Explain how they connect to the theme
3. Three details (no repeats) How do these details help you understand the author's purpose?
4. How does the way the story is organized impact the meaning at the end?
5. What is ironic about the story? How so?
6. Why do so many fail to live up to the meaning of this song? What causes them to ignore the message?
7. How does one become whole? (your opinion)
8. Three characteristics the protagonist possesses? - support each characterization with evidence from the story
9. Two Internal conflicts present in the story
10. Epiphany/climax Why is that the turning point
11. Denouement?

Student example

Video Questions:

1. The story is about a ball that is looking for its missing piece. It travels across the world, meeting creatures, seeing sights, and getting into trouble, in order to obtain its missing piece. It eventually meets pieces that could fit its void space, but none could not, until one manages to be a perfect fit. Though happy at first, the ball finds that it cannot sing when it is complete, so he voluntarily removed itself from the piece and went on his merry way. What can be taken away from this story is that happiness cannot be fulfilled with only a goal. Rather, the journey to get to the goal is where true happiness lies.
2. The simple art style contrasts from the complexity the story has. It disguises itself

as a simple children's story. In reality, it has meaning that even adults can take away from. The ball's fulfillment being incomplete and the ball's unhappiness being complete. The ball felt happier journeying towards something than being at the finish line. The ball's singing compared when it was whole and incomplete. It shows that the ball had to sacrifice something in order to be complete, which is something it was not willing to do.

3. The main character, the ball, symbolizes the feeling of incompleteness. The ball being complete symbolizes one reaching one's goal and the negative consequence thereafter. The beetle and/or butterfly symbolizes the joy of pursuing a destination.
4. The ball fights against unfavorable weather and environments. This shows the struggle one must go through in order to achieve success. The singing, both when it was missing a piece and after finding its missing piece. This shows that happiness cannot be found solely through the goal's achievement but through the journey to get there. The ball ignores the butterfly and beetle after finding its missing piece. This shows the fleeting joy of completing a goal.
5. The story's organization makes the audience understand the perilous yet exhilarating journey the ball had to go through to obtain its missing piece. It builds an expectation that what the ball is doing will not be in vain and the struggle it is going through will be worth it in the end. That is why when the ball discarded the missing piece, it came as a shock, as its entire reason for its adventure was to find the missing piece. However, when the ball sang, it looked visibly happier. At that moment, the reader realizes that what the ball went through was not in vain. Rather, an important lesson was learned—the journey to get to the goal was much more fun than obtaining that goal.
6. The irony of the story is that the ball was less satisfied being complete than he was incomplete. When the ball was physically complete, it felt emotionally incomplete, as it could not sing. When the ball was physically incomplete, it felt emotionally complete, as it could communicate to other creatures and sing merrily. In other words, when the ball reached its goal, it did not feel as fulfilled as it was pursuing a goal.
7. Many fail to live to the meaning of the song because people are too focused on the goal, rather than the journey to get to the goal. People ignore the song's message due to being engrossed with the mindset that a destination will all of a sudden bring happiness once it is reached, instead of focusing on the daily grind,

chucking away little by little in order to reach at least an inch towards the destination. That is where real happiness lies—the habitual practice of grinding.

8. The way one can feel complete is through direction. A goal is good only as a guidance, not as a final point in one's life. What matters more is getting there and how one decides to do it. That is where real satisfaction is felt. Completing a goal is just a temporary byproduct. When one completes a goal, another must be set in order to repeat the process. Without direction, meaninglessness and despair will quickly conjure up.
9. The character is adventurous, as it traverses across land and sea, in conditions both sunny and rainy, in order to get its missing piece. It is polite, as it apologizes to the first piece it encounters. It is determined, as it is willing to fight through rain and snow.
10. One internal conflict is the ball's want to find its missing piece. Another internal conflict is its decision whether to discard its missing piece after realizing it could not sing after obtaining it.
11. The ball's reunification with its missing piece is the story's epiphany because it is the moment where the ball realizes that being complete made him feel worse in the end, due to him not able to sing or interact with the butterfly or beetle. At that moment, it realizes that the journey to get to the missing piece brought more gratification than obtaining the missing piece itself.
12. The denouement is the ball abandoning the missing piece and singing to itself about finding its missing piece.